

R.L. McDonald and Company Building
202 North Fourth Street
St. Joseph
Buchanan County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1856

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

R.L. McDONALD AND COMPANY BUILDING
(Wholesale Row)

HABS No. MO-1856

Location: 202 North Fourth Street, St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri

Significance: Building housed activities of a wholesale concern important in the commercial history of St. Joseph; today it is one of the few remaining structures from that era.

Description: Four stories and basement with stone foundation. East facade contains five bays. String courses separate the stories, and a broad, overhanging bracketed cornice crowns the building. The street level contains cast-iron columns connected with arches to provide large window openings. The main entrance is inset into the southeast corner of the building behind a single red granite column.

The south facade has end bays set apart by pilasters and eight bays of intervening wall surfaces with moderate articulation, consisting of continuous sills and continuous lintels on some stories in addition to the cornice.

History: Completed 1880. Architect: Edmond Jaques Eckel. Renovated ca. 1976. Rufus Lee McDonald of R.L. McDonald and Co. was a wholesaler of dry goods, notions, and men's furnishings. After 1897, the company concentrated on the manufacture of men's shirts and workclothes.

The R.L. McDonald and Co. Building is part of a block known as "Wholesale Row." This group of Italianate facades is an important local example of late-nineteenth century commercial architecture in St. Joseph. At the time these structures were built, St. Joseph was experiencing rapid population and economic growth, much of which was due to the city's role as a major wholesaling and outfitting center in the West.

Source: National Register of Historic Places nomination form, "Wholesale Row," compiled by Nancy E. Sandehn, January, 1976.

Historian: Robert Buergleener, HABS, August, 1988.

ADDENDUM TO
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Saint Joseph
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